



AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

January 11, 2019

TO: Agricultural Advisory Committee Members (AAC)

FROM: Jeremy V. Criss, Director
Office of Agriculture

SUBJECT: January 15, 2019 Meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday **January 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm.**

We will be meeting at the Up County Regional Services Center 12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown MD 20874 Room A.

The agenda is on the next page.

The draft minutes from the December 18, 2018 AAC meeting will be available prior to our meeting.

The other attachments for our meeting will be posted on the Office of Agriculture web site.

<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agboardscommittee.html>

I hope to see you on Tuesday.

*Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If you need other services or Aids to participate in this activity, please call 301-590-2810.



**Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting
January 15, 2019 Agenda**

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:
2. Approval of the AAC meeting minutes from December 18, 2018.
3. The APAB met with County Executive Marc Elrich on Monday January 7, 2019 to discuss farmland preservation funding. The meeting was very productive as the CE asked many good questions and demonstrated he understands how the County Government has not fulfilled its commitment to the farmers from the 1980 Down Zone, which created the Agricultural Reserve. There was a very informative discussion surrounding how the Planning Board no longer promotes the use of Transferable Development Rights TDRs due to other competing types of affordable housing and work forces housing that are more popular today. Several funding options for farmland preservation were discussed and the APAB was encouraged by the sincere remarks made by the CE.
4. The MCFB President Michele Cropp has a meeting scheduled with the County Executive Marc Elrich on January 22, 2019 at 3:00pm. The OAG provided CE briefing documents to help Michele prepare for the meeting. The APAB recommends collections of County Agricultural Transfer Taxes and Water Quality Protection Charge funding should be allocated for farmland preservation easements.
5. We now have the proposed statewide House Bill 20 from Delegate Eric Luedtke, which proposes to remove the State Section 13-305 that allows developers to avoid paying the Agricultural Transfer Taxes. The hearing will be in Annapolis with the House Ways and Means Committee on January 17, 2019.
6. Update on Farm Alcohol Production Facilities. The Council introduced a new ZTA 18-14 on December 11, 2018 that will allow Farm Alcohol Production in the RE-1 and RE-2 Residential zones as an accessory use to farming. The ZTA requires that all types of farm alcohol production in these residential zones must be located a minimum of 25 acres and the property must not be located in a planned sewer service category. The Public Hearing is scheduled for January 15, 2019 and the AAC letter has been forwarded to the County Council.
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/zta/2018/ZTA%2018-14.pdf>
7. The Agricultural members of the Agritourism Study Advisory Committee-ASAC met on December 7, 2018 to prepare responses to recommendations from the consultant. The group forwarded their responses to the consultant's recommendations on Friday January 4, 2019. There is a tentative date for another meeting of the ASAC on January 23, 2019.
8. The Sugarland Broadband Pilot construction along Partnership Road is completed and service hook ups are underway. Comcast is waiving the installation costs to the residents including the long runs up their driveways for hooking up the service. Comcast is working to schedule construction along the Sugarland Road after the holidays. We have made progress in obtaining signed easements from some of the holdouts along the pilot.

Several residents have expressed interest to assist in replicating the success of the Sugarland Pilot into other areas of the Agricultural Reserve.

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/Sugarland/sugarland-comcast.html>

9. The OAG is working on a Family Farms promotion for Montgomery County. If Kira Tregoning (Doug Tregoning's daughter) contacts you, please respond back as this will help us to promote Montgomery County Agriculture and the wonderful farming families that we have.
10. The Agricultural Legislative Luncheon on December 18, 2018 was a real successful event and the Linthicum family did an excellent job of hosting the event. MANY THANKS TO TOM and PAULA! We had a total of 14 elected officials represented directly including some staff representatives.
11. The Linthicum family will receive the Governor's Agricultural Hall of Fame Award for this year and they will be honored during the February 7, 2019 Taste of Maryland Dinner.
12. Update on the FY19 1.5% Savings Plan for the OAG totals \$14,583. The Savings Plan will negatively impact the number of matching grants the OAG will be able to provide through June 30, 2019 in addition to reducing our marketing outreach for farmers markets and the farm tour. Update on the FY20 Budget Reduction for the OAG totals \$38,888. The Budget Reduction was submitted on January 7, 2019 and the OAG is recommending the contract for Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation-MAEF and Montgomery County Public Schools-MCPS be reduced by \$38,000. This reduction will reduce the number of schools the Mobile Science Lab-Food Fiber and you can visit each year from 27 schools down to 13 schools.
13. The MNCPPC submitted letters to farmers that lease park land announcing a pesticide prohibition for using Glyphosate-Round Up as part of their farming operation. The OAG contacted the Director of Parks, Mike Riley requesting the specific authority that MNCPPC is using to enforce this pesticide prohibition. The MNCPPC responded that all farmers that received the letter should discard the instructions at this time. The OAG will follow up with each of the farmers that received the letters.
14. Update on the Appointments needed for the AAC. January 23, 2019 Deadline.
15. Next meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee-February 15, 2019 at the Up-County Regional Services Center-12900 Middlebrook Road Germantown, MD 20874 Room A.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Ag Preservation Advisory Board-January 8, 2019 @7:00pm Up County Regional
Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors-January 8, 2019@ 7:00pm-AHFP
Montgomery Soil Conservation District Bd of Supervisors-January 11, 2019@ 9:00am
Ag Advisory Committee-January 15, 2019 @ 7:00pm-Up County Regional Center
UM-Extension New and Beginning Farmer trainings-January 16-April 3, 2019
Annual Farmers Market Training-MDA and DHMH-January 16, 2019 @10:00am

Agritourism Advisory Committee-January 23, 2019 @6:00 pm

Farm Bureau Day in Annapolis-January 30, 2019

Taste of Maryland Dinner-February 7, 2019

USGS-Food is Opportunity Forum-February 12, 2019

Farm Tour-Visits-LEAD Program from Ontario Canada-February 16, 2019

UM-Extension-Winter Agronomy Update-February 27, 2019